



## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

*Please amend paragraph [0093] on Page 24 of the substitute specification filed October 6, 2006 as follow:*

[0093] The pretreatment liquid is prepared by mixing together catalytic metal ions and an acid having a purifying function to remove impurities including a metal oxide film on the surface of the metal region, or metal residues remaining on the surface of the metal region and the surface of the insulating film on the substrate other than the metal region, or the like. By bringing the pretreatment liquid into contact with the surface of the substrate, a catalyst is imparted to the surfaces of interconnects, and simultaneously the oxide film on the interconnect metal is removed and the metal residues on the interlevel dielectric layer are removed. Specifically, the pretreatment liquid may comprise an aqueous liquid which is a mixture of at least one of palladium hydrochloric acid (palladium hydrochloride), palladium sulfuric acid (palladium sulfate), and palladium acetic acid (palladium acetate) and at least one of hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, fluoric acid, acetic acid, oxalic acid, formic acid, citric acid, and tartaric acid.